

Sheikh Sabah arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The head of an Arab League committee trying to end Lebanon's political crisis arrived in Damascus Friday to brief Syrian leaders on their efforts, officials said. They said Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwait's foreign minister, would have talks with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara on the committee's meeting in Tunis this week with the leaders of Lebanon's two governments. The six foreign ministers held talks with acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss and General Michel Aoun, who heads a rival administration. After three days of talks, Sheikh Sabah said the leaders remained at odds but his committee would continue contacts with other parties in Lebanon.

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Jordan explains stand on Jerusalem

MELBOURNE (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Thursday that Jordan has always been keen on maintaining its strong ties with the occupied Holy City of Jerusalem despite the Kingdom's decision last July to sever legal and administrative relations with the occupied West Bank.

The Crown Prince said that Jordan had risen above political situations and unsustainable circumstances and continued to direct the necessary attention and care to the Christian and Muslim holy places in Jerusalem.

Prince Hassan noted that Jerusalem had a special significance to followers of all the monotheistic religions and stressed the right of every party

to freely practice its religious rights.

Prince Hassan voiced appreciation for the noble motives expressed by clerics and clergymen to hold such conferences as the one in Melbourne aimed at enhancing mutual understanding between followers of the monotheistic faiths and finding a stronger current advocating peace based on right and justice.

The Crown Prince also said that religions follow an approach for peace that might be different from that traditional approach of politicians in

responsible positions.

The fact that this region is the cradle of the three monotheistic religions should serve as a motive for believers in these three religions to resort to reconciliation and peace rather than wars, he said.

Prince Hassan recalled the various wars which erupted throughout the ages around the walls of Jerusalem and said that the political power currently dominating the scene there ignores opportunities for peace, refuses to listen to the voice of mind, and prepares for new confrontations.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

Peking formally invites Gorbachev

PEKING (AP) — China Friday formally invited Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to come to Peking for their nations' first summit in 30 years, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze accepted.

Shevardnadze, who arrived in Peking Wednesday on the first such visit by a Soviet foreign minister in 30 years, flew Friday night to Shanghai and planned to meet Deng there Saturday.

Duhin said he had heard Deng was in Shanghai for medical examinations, but later qualified that he had heard only rumours, nothing special.

"Certainly we don't have official information about the health of Chinese leaders," he said. Rumours that the 84-year-old Deng is in poor health have been circulating around Peking this winter as every year, but there has been nothing to confirm that.

"It's official," Soviet spokesman Viatcheslav Duhin said later at a news briefing. He said Shevardnadze would make an announcement about the date Saturday, after consulting with Deng.

However, he said only a vague date may be announced, such as



Mikhail Gorbachev

Soviet differences over Kampuchea were discussed for a second day. The Chinese-Soviet border, over which the two countries fought briefly in 1969, also was talked about, Duhin said. "As far as I understand he (Shevardnadze) was satisfied with the talks," Duhin said. Neither the Afghan soldiers nor the Soviet sources could say how many vehicles were in the column, which passed into the blizzard between two and five a.m.

The soldiers said it was supposed to rendezvous some 70 kilometres up the highway with other Soviet units before crossing the 3,600-meter high pass.

Soviet and Afghan forces launched a major onslaught on rebels near the pass early last week to prevent their convoys being ambushed.

Xinhua quoted Li as telling Shevardnadze that his visit would give impetus to resolving the Kampuchean issue and "remove a major obstacle to the normalisation of relations between China and the Soviet Union."

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Ibn Ali, Qasem hold talks

TUNIS (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem met here Thursday with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali and conveyed to him greetings and best wishes from His Majesty King Hussein. Ibn Ali and Qasem reviewed bilateral relations and means to bolster and develop them. They also discussed the recent developments on the Arab and international arenas and efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East and reviewed the outcome of a meeting of a six-member Arab committee entrusted with settling the Lebanese constitutional crisis.

Panel on uprising to meet Monday

TUNIS (Petra) — The seven-member Arab committee entrusted with supporting the Palestinian uprising will hold a meeting here Monday at the level of the permanent representatives to the Arab League. The committee comprises representatives of Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Arab League General Secretariat.

Iraq beats Jordan in World Cup match

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq beat Jordan 4-0 (halftime 2-0) in a World Cup West Asia Group One qualifying soccer match Friday. Scorers: Ahmad Radhi (26th, 43rd, 67th and 80th minutes).

Israel unhappy over Nazi comparison

TEL AVIV (R) — A U.N. office in South Lebanon accused Israel forces this week of acting like Nazis, Israel radio said Friday. The report said Israel lodged a complaint with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) over remarks by a Norwegian battalion commander, J.E. Karlsen. Israel radio reporter Haim Hecht said Karlsen had been denouncing the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army's (SLA) expulsions of residents from villages in Israel's self-declared "security zone." Military sources estimated the SLA has expelled some 70 residents of Shabaa village at the foot of Mount Hermon in the last two months on suspicion of resistance activities. Four others were expelled from the eastern sector of the "security zone" this week, Israeli sources said. Karlsen made the remarks during a meeting between about 20 Israeli and UNIFIL commanders in South Lebanon Thursday, Hecht said.

Palestinian embassy opened in Havana

HAVANA (R) — A Palestinian embassy was opened in Havana Friday, the first such diplomatic representation in the Americas. Cuba was one of the first countries to recognise the independent Palestinian state declared in November. The embassy will replace the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission which had existed for a number of years.

French envoy arrives in Beirut for talks on Lebanon's crisis

BEIRUT (R) — A French government envoy arrived in Lebanon on Friday for talks on a four-month-old political crisis threatening the country with partition. Jean Francois Deniau, vice-president of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, arrived at the airport in west Beirut by private jet and was driven by embassy car to the east. Embassy sources said he was due to start talks with senior Lebanese officials Saturday about the crisis, which began in September when parliament failed to elect a successor to President Amin Gemayel.

Velayati to attend U.N. talks on truce observers

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will attend a meeting of the U.N. Security Council next week on extending the mandate of the U.N. force monitoring the Gulf ceasefire, according to the Iranian news agency IRNA.

The agency said the idea of his trip was suggested by Jan Eliasson, the U.N. mediator who visited Tehran and Baghdad last week in an effort to get the stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks moving.

A U.N. spokesman said Tuesday that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz might also visit New York for the council session on Feb. 8 but did not say if he and Velayati would resume face-to-face talks, adjourned since Nov. 11.

Teheran Radio said Thursday Velayati would discuss the peace talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar while in New York.

Teheran insists that Iraqi forces must withdraw from 1,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory which it says they occupy. Baghdad says the disputed Shatt Al Arab border waterway must be dredged of war debris first.

General Slavko Jovic, commander of the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), said in Baghdad Wednesday that the formation of a military working group bringing together officers from Iran and Iraq was under study.

Iraq said Sunday during Eliasson's visit to Baghdad that it was ready to join such a group. Velayati described this as a positive step and said Iran had accepted the idea when it was first proposed soon after peace talks began Aug. 25.

Israel plays down Mubarak criticism

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday played down Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's barbs criticism of Israel over the disputed Taba resort, saying the issue had not created a crisis in relations.

Mubarak accused Israel Thursday of jeopardising relations by its "repulsive" equivocation over withdrawing from the beachfront territory it seized in the 1967 war.

Mubarak made the remarks even though the Israeli cabinet Wednesday said it was committed to withdrawal and would return to Taba within two to three weeks of settling other outstanding issues with the Egyptians.

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Amman meeting to lay economic foundations for 4-member bloc

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq will name a planned sub-regional economic bloc the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), according to Jordanian officials and Arab diplomats quoted by Reuters.

The prime ministers of the four states will lay the foundations for the ACC group during a meeting in Amman in February, before its creation is formally declared during a planned ministerial summit, Reuters quoted the officials and diplomats as saying.

The bloc will be geared towards economic cooperation and membership will be open for any Arab country that does not belong to the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) or the planned Maghreb Union between Mauritania, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco.

Other smaller convoys have been leaving Kabul for several days, while giant Ilyushin-76 transport planes are working a shuttle to take soldiers and equipment to the Soviet Union.

A French journalist, one of some 35 Western newsmen in Kabul to cover the withdrawal, was shot and slightly wounded by a Soviet soldier Friday, a colleague said.

Jean-Francois Leven of the weekly L'Express was hit in the right buttock by a bullet which passed through the door of his taxi.

Le Moudaw correspondent Laurent Zecchin said the soldier opened fire into the ground when he, Leven and a French photographer began taking pictures of a group of Soviet servicemen and Afghans apparently trading.

"We put our hands up and went back to the car," Zecchin said. "He fired one more shot and hit the car at wheel level. The bullet went through the door and into his buttock."

Five days each in a cell at the Russian compound, the Jerusalem police headquarters, because their parents could not come up with 750 shekels (\$415) bail.

Palestinian minors appearing before military courts in the occupied West Bank are frequently postponed while suspects remain in jail, and authorities often fail to notify families of the whereabouts of detainees.

Thursday, a 16-year-old Palestinian was shot and killed by army gunfire during clashes near the West Bank villages of Fahme and Kfar Rai, the army said.

In another development, Israeli Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon said Thursday that West Bank troops withdrawn from some areas under a proposed peace plan could be sent back there at any time.

Dedi Zucker, a legislator from the Citizens Rights Movement, said the practice began a year ago after the supreme court ruled that which began in December 1987.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops shot and wounded a 13-year-old boy in the Siba refugee camp Friday, Palestinians said.

Palestinians hurled a burning object, believed to be a firebomb, at an Israeli bus carrying workers near Jerusalem, Palestinians reported. No one was injured.

Since then, several dozen Palestinian minors have been held for several weeks under such conditions.

The average sentence for stone-throwing is two months, Lecker said, adding that "some of these kids... end up spending half the sentence in jail, even if they are innocent."

In other developments, Palestinian lawyers Thursday extended for another month their boycott of West Bank military courts.

The lawyers launched the boycott Jan. 3 to protest the lack of due process for their clients, and said they decided to continue the protest because the Israeli authorities have not responded to

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transport and contracting operations.

The investment and trade committee will issue import licences to merchants from either country, while the transport committee will make a study on reducing tariffs and rates on transport and transit operations and facilitate the ferry-boat transportation and travel between Aqaba and Nweibeh, according to the statement.

It said that the contracting committee would set up a joint construction unit to help the two countries deal with competition in construction works with other countries, and to pave the way for contracting operations in Iraq and North Yemen.

The two sides agreed to prepare a list of industrial and agricultural products from Egypt and Jordan to be marketed in either country with no customs duties or other barriers.

The two sides set up committees for investment and trade.

Palestinians enforce boycott of Israeli goods in W. Bank

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Masked Palestinians raided shops in Nablus at least twice this week, snatched Israeli-made sweets from the shelves and trampled on them in the streets, witnesses said Friday.

In another incident, a group of protesters took away Israeli forms from merchants and burned them in the street.

The United National Leadership of the Uprising has issued leaflets calling on Palestinians to boycott Israeli goods and refuse to pay taxes to the occupation authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli sources say the revenue of the West Bank "civil administration" was halved last year because of the Palestinian uprising which began in December 1987.

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Shevardnadze due in Pakistan today for crucial Afghan talks

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze makes a 17-hour visit to this capital Saturday in a last flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at averting further bloodshed in Afghanistan once Soviet troops are gone.

His 17-hour visit comes less than two weeks before the Soviet army is scheduled to complete its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan following a nine-year military intervention to back the government against rebels.

Shevardnadze is the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit Pakistan in more than 20 years. He was scheduled to arrive Saturday at 11 p.m. (1800 GMT) and to depart at 4 p.m. (1100 GMT) Sunday.

Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yarov visited Kabul in January.

"We hope our talks with the Soviet leader will pave the way for a peaceful settlement, although the situation on the ground in Afghanistan is depressing," a Pakistani government spokesman said recently.

He was referring to reports of continued fighting between communist forces and the rebels, especially along the main Soviet withdrawal route from Kabul north to the Soviet border.

Bush considering arms sales to S. Arabia

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has informed Congress he may authorise the sale of 315 front-line Abrams tanks to Saudi Arabia and 200 to Kuwait while providing a third Arab country, the United Arab Emirates, with 40 F-18 fighter jets, informed sources said Thursday.

Egypt, meanwhile, would get 150 Hawk missiles and Israel 200 shoulder-fired Stingers, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The potential Arab purchases could touch off another row with Israel's supporters in Congress, who were exceptionally successful during the Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan administrations in blocking U.S. arms sales to Arab states.

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SAFEWAY INTERNATIONAL

Mujahedeen forces are trying to lay siege to Kabul and other main cities such as Kandahar, southwest of Kabul, and Jalalabad, across the frontier from Peshawar, to force government agreement, he said.

Under the agreement, brokered by the United Nations, Moscow agreed to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

"I will say it clearly: Yes, we will survive. We have sufficient forces to defend the people's sovereignty," he told a news conference Thursday.

Looking confident and smiling often, Najibullah said only history could judge whether the Soviet intervention of December 1979 had proved a mistake or not.

The news conference was held two days after the United States evacuated its last 11 diplomats from Kabul on security grounds, while several other Western countries considered similar steps.

The U.S.-backed rebels are blockading Kabul in a bid to overthrow the Najibullah government after the Soviet Union withdraws the last soldier of a force that once numbered 115,000.

Najibullah fiercely attacked Pakistan, blaming the entire conflict in Afghanistan on the neighbor.



Eduard Shevardnadze

new conference he had offered eight Iran-based rebel groups 10 seats each on the council, or "shura," designed to approve an interim government for Afghanistan.

The Iran-based groups, from the Shi'ite sect of Islam, rejected the offer but negotiations would continue, said Hekmatyar, one of the seven Mujahedeen groups based in Pakistan.

The rebels are at odds among themselves over representation of the Iranian and Pakistani groups in a transition period or a new government. However, the rebels have so far unanimously rejected any role for members of Najibullah's government.

The rebels from Pakistan and Iran are still at odds over a critical consultative council meeting but it will go ahead on schedule next week, a top negotiator said Thursday.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. court approves extradition

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that a naturalised U.S. citizen accused of taking part in an attack on a bus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank in 1986 could be extradited to Israel. U.S. District Judge Edward Korman Thursday stayed his order for 30 days to allow the lawyers of Mahmoud Al Abd Ahmad to file a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. Korman's ruling was the result of a second extradition proceeding initiated by the U.S. government against Ahmad, who is wanted in Israel for allegedly participating in the attack on the bus on April 12, 1986, in which the driver was killed and three passengers were seriously wounded. A federal magistrate, John Caden, had concluded last June 16 that Ahmad could not be extradited because his acts were a "political offence" and thus fell outside the purview of the extradition treaty between the United States and Israel.

Khomeini pardons broadcasters

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini pardoned four radio executives a day after they were sentenced at his orders for broadcasting a programme which allegedly insulted Islam, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Thursday. IRNA quoted the daily newspaper Jomhuri Islam as saying Khomeini agreed to pardon the broadcasters Wednesday after receiving an appeal on their behalf from Chief Justice Abdul Karim Musavi Ardebili. The broadcasters were arrested at the weekend and sentenced Tuesday for airing a phone-in programme in which a caller said the leading character of a Japanese soap opera, "Oshio," was a better role model for Islamic women than the daughter of the Prophet Mohammed.

Naccache demands 'promised release'

PARIS (R) — A Lebanese gunman jailed for trying to kill the Shah of Iran's last prime minister warned Thursday of bloodshed if France did not keep an alleged promise to free him as part of a hostage deal. Ami Naccache, serving a life sentence for trying to kill Shapour Bakhtiar, said in an appeal to the French and Iranian governments that President Francois Mitterrand had publicly promised he would be set free if French nationals held in Beirut were released. There are no French nationals still held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. A copy of Naccache's appeal, sent to Mitterrand Jan. 8, was given to the Paris daily Libération by his lawyer a few days before French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas is due to visit Tehran to seal a diplomatic rapprochement.

Iranians kill 70 drug smugglers

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian narcotic agents backed by army helicopters wiped out a heavily-armed drug convoy, killing all 70 traffickers, in a three-day desert battle, Tehran Radio said Thursday. It said the convoy, defended by light and medium calibre weapons, anti-aircraft guns and mortars, was tracked down and destroyed in the southeastern Lut desert. An officer quoted by the radio said army helicopters set fire to five vehicles in the convoy, one of which contained three tonnes of drugs.

Bahrain endorses Islamic court plan

BAHRAIN (AP) — Bahrain Thursday endorsed a plan to set up an international Islamic court of justice patterned on the World Court at the Hague, the Gulf News Agency reported. A decree issued by the emir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, approved a decision taken at the last pan-Islamic summit to found the court "out of desire to have a juridical body that settles disputes in line with Islamic Shari'a," the agency said. Shari'a (legislation) forms the basis for court systems in most of the Islamic countries grouped in the 46-state Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Court rejects RJ hijack suspect's quest

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuter

RABAT — Five heads of state will meet in Marrakesh this month to look at ways of forging a North African union bringing together some 62 million people from Morocco's Atlantic coast to Libya's eastern border.

The latest of the world's trade blocs — to be known as the Arab Maghreb Union — would link Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania in a form of common market.

It aims to strengthen the region's hand in international trade talks by welding very different economies into an entity equipped to meet the challenges of the 1990s.

Supporters say the countries' economies complement each other and the alliance will enable them to capitalise on extensive natural resources.

Libya and Algeria are overflowing with oil and natural gas, but are short of consumer goods and have neglected agriculture. Morocco has a virtual monopoly in phosphates and produces tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Mauritania has iron ore and other minerals and rich fishing grounds. Tunisia has a well-de-

veloped manufacturing industry and an efficient banking sector.

The way to unity was opened when the five countries held a landmark first summit just outside Algiers last June, after a decade of rivalry between Algeria and Morocco and between Libya and Tunisia.

They agreed to work for greater economic and political cooperation and set up committees to draw up first proposals covering defence, customs, security and other matters.

The countries currently trade little with each other but all have close commercial links with Western Europe.

The summit will take place only a week after Algerian President Chadli Benjedid ends a state visit to Morocco, the first Algerian leader to cross the border for over 20 years.

The two countries brought the

age-old ideal of Maghreb unity

back to life when they restored

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Political analysts and diplomats

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The two most populous states

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National News



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday receives Sudanese Defence Minister Abdul Majed Khalil and Sudanese Army Chief of Staff Mahdi Nimer at the Royal Court. (left) Armed Forces



Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb also receives the Sudanese guests at the Armed Forces headquarters in Amman Thursday (Petra photo)

Crown Prince voices support for peace in Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has voiced Jordan's support for Sudan's efforts to re-establish peace and security in the country, and underlined the importance for the Arab African nation to safeguard its sovereignty and bolster national unity.

The Crown Prince was speaking at a meeting held at the Royal Court Thursday with visiting Sudanese Defence Minister

Abdul Majed Khalil who was accompanied by his army Chief of Staff Mahdi Nimer.

Prince Hassan said it is important for all parties in Sudan to overcome the present difficult circumstances and maintain the nation's internal unity and preserve the country's sovereignty and Arab national unity.

The Sudanese minister conveyed to Prince Hassan his coun-

try's deep gratitude for Jordan's relief assistance to Sudan and paid tribute to the Jordanian missions who are helping the Sudanese people in the fields of agriculture and health.

Khalil spoke about his government's determination to promote national unity and raise the capabilities of the Sudanese Armed Forces to preserve security and stability.

The meeting was attended by Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb.

The Sudanese visitors were later met separately with Abu Taleb and reviewed Jordanian-Sudanese cooperation, the general situation in Sudan and matters of common interest.

The meeting, at the army headquarters in Amman was attended by a number of Abu Taleb's assistants.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES SRI LANKA: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a congratulatory cable to President Ranasinghe Premadasa on Sri Lanka's Independence Day anniversary. In his cable, the King wished the president good health and happiness, and the Sri Lankan people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will open the first agricultural conference at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Sunday. Forty Jordanian agricultural companies, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the University of Jordan will participate in this three-day exhibition which will display local agricultural products and equipment used in agriculture. (Petra)

CLEANING CAMPAIGN: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Friday led a voluntary campaign to clean the 100-km desert highway road which extends from Al Muwaqqar to Al Azraq. The campaign was designed to remove garbage and tyres from the two sides of the road. (Petra)

ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY MEETING: Jordan will take part in the four-day meetings of the Islamic Chamber of Industry and Trade's executive board and general assembly meetings, due to convene in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates Monday. (Petra)

INCOME TAX REFUNDS: The Income Tax Department is currently preparing lists of the second batch of income tax payers, who are eligible to be refunded parts of the amounts they paid to the department during last year and the years before. (Petra)

ARBOR DAY IN MAFRAQ: In observance of Arbor Day, 4,000 trees were planted Thursday in Mafraq. Trees were also planted in a 60-dunum area in Al Aridah. (Petra)

PEOPLES' COMMITTEE VISIT IRAQ: Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan met with the delegation of the Jordanian People's Committee in support of the Iraqi People's Struggle which was lead by Amin Shugair. During the meeting, Ramadan expressed admiration in the committee's positions while Shugair noted that the visit was an expression of the Jordanian people's pride in the Iraqi victory. (Petra)

DRUG PEDDLER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Khaled Mahmoud Ali Yousef to three years imprisonment and payment of JD 600 fine for the possession of heroin. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

Contracts signed for building agricultural research centre

AMMAN (USAID) Acting Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud and representatives of four local construction firms signed agreements for the construction of the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) and satellite facilities.

Lewis P. Reade, director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordan, Dr. Randall Cummings and Fuad Oushair, of USAID's agriculture office, and Abdullah Ahmad, USAID engineer, attended the signing.

The cost of the NCARTT facilities is \$9 million, of which USAID is contributing \$7 million and the government of Jordan is contributing \$2 million.

Four local Jordanian firms were awarded the contracts for the national centre at Baq'a, and three regional centres at Mshagar, Rabbah, and Stobak. A fourth regional centre at Ramtha

will be contracted in the near future.

The national centre and its regional service centres will play key roles in the Ministry of Agriculture's plans to assist farmers.

The research and extension activities these centres carry out will help to increase agricultural production and farmers' income. The centres will promote crop diversification, range improvement, better marketing, and the development of private sector agriculture to manufacture equipment specifically designed for highland farming.

The multi-storyed NCARTT at Baq'a will house administrative and planning staff and central research laboratories. The regional centres have been located and designed to assist productive interaction between farmers, researchers, and extension workers. The facilities will include offices, libraries, and research laboratories.



Canada gives JD 19,800 to combat desert locusts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Michael Bell Thursday presented Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan a cheque for JD 19,800 as a contribution from the Canadian government to Jordan's efforts to combat the danger of desert locusts.

Kanaan thanked the ambassador for the contribution and discussed Canadian-Jordanian cooperation in a number of fields.

The Jordanian government earlier issued an appeal to friendly nations and world organisations to provide assistance and extend help to Jordan in its drive to eliminate pests that entered Jordanian territory in the past two months from Saudi Arabia.

Waves of desert locusts were successfully fought off by Ministry of Agriculture teams, assisted by the armed forces and the Royal Jordanian Air Force using pesticides, but the ministry has warned that more waves of locusts were expected in the early spring, and that the country would need more equipment and pesticides to carry out the anti-locust campaign.

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Bridgeable differences

WHILE the Arab League ministerial committee charged with the mission of reconciling differences in Lebanon has ended the first stage of its mandate with no breakthrough, it would be incorrect to characterise its work thus far as a total failure. It is noteworthy and encouraging to observe that after many days and nights of continuous negotiations in Tunis last week between the Arab League committee and the representatives of two principal parties in the Lebanese conflict, namely, Prime Ministers Salim Al Hoss and General Michael Aoun, considerable movement and agreement were recorded on the issue of the urgent need for a "Lebanese perestroika," as a prelude to an overall Lebanese solution. This is by far the most basic dimension in the overall Lebanese crisis which has paralysed the country for over a decade and a half. It is also encouraging to note that the two principal sides in Lebanon concede that internal reforms, whether constitutional or otherwise, are the heart of the matter and supersede all other issues. This is not to belittle the issue of Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon on which there is also a firm agreement that it should end forthwith. Unfortunately, however, Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon is not dependent solely on a Lebanese agreement because Israeli occupation of the southern region of Lebanon is an enforced regime on all the Lebanese by Israel's military might and may not be brought to an end by the Lebanese alone.

The only other point that still separates the two basic antagonists in Lebanon is apparently related to the Syrian role in that country. If this is the case, then the differences are indeed bridgeable. Syria, intervened in Lebanon many years ago in the first place, to prevent chaos and civil strife on its western flank. Syria has, on more than one occasion, expressed the opinion that law and order in that country cannot be attained without affecting real and genuine reforms within Lebanon. It would only be possible to reconcile the artificial differences of the Syrian dimension as soon as the much sought reforms in Lebanon are realised. After all, Syrian involvement in Lebanon came about as a result of an Arab League decision and specifically to carry out a certain mandate. As soon as the Lebanese house is put in order again and the sought after reforms are effected, there will be very little to differ about regarding the Syrian mission in Lebanon. With more goodwill on the part of all the Lebanese factions it is more than possible to crown the Arab League ministerial committee's mandate with total success in the days ahead. In any case this committee must never abandon hope for the sake of the Lebanese people.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i's daily Friday warns against Israeli threats on Iraq, which if carried out would trigger a new Arab-Israeli war. The paper said that the Israelis would launch an aggression on Iraq under the pretext that this Arab country possesses chemical weapons which Israel fears. But the true reason behind any military adventure against any Arab state is the deteriorating internal situation in Israel itself, it adds. Furthermore, the Israelis are facing continued isolation from the world community as a result of their atrocities against the Palestinians; and their leaders are in dispute over the coming international conference on the Middle East, the paper noted. But it said that the Arabs should not take the Israeli threats against Iraq lightly and must be ready to confront the new aggression which Israel hopes will eclipse Iraq's victories in the Gulf war and deal a heavy blow to the Arabs who are now rallying their forces and their ranks in a new force to confront external challenges. The Arabs, the paper concluded, should not allow Israel to escape from its dilemma by launching a new aggression on the Arab land.

A columnist in Al Ra'i's daily comments on Israeli-Egyptian disputes over Taba enclave in Sinai which according to an international panel of arbitrators should return to Egypt. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that following months of stalling and avoiding the implementation of the panel's resolution, on the part of Israel and following unfruitful negotiations between Egyptian and Israeli officials over the issue. President Hosni Mubarak found it inevitable but to come out strongly against the Israeli position and accuse the Jewish state of adopting a repulsive attitude and scoffing at international agreements. Mubarak warned the Israelis against further procrastination which Israel is exercising as a means of blackmail against Cairo which is now taking very clear position in alignment with the other Arab states, the writer says. Political blackmail is not the only kind of pressure Israel is trying to put on Egypt but there is the drug pressure represented in attempts to smuggle drugs and the attempt to bring into Egypt Zionist elements to stir trouble in Egypt, the writer adds. He says trouble and disturbances among Egyptian lawyers were instigated by an Israeli agent and that in a number of instances Jews were arrested trying to cause security problems in Cairo. The writer says that it is clear that Israel is trying by all possible means to avoid giving up Taba and causing trouble for the Egyptian authorities because they are demanding that Arab land be returned according to international law.

Al Dastour daily also tackles Israel's threats of launching an aggression on Iraq as it claims that country possesses chemical and biological weapons. The paper said that the Israelis realise that Iraq today is far stronger than it had been at the time when Israeli jets raided the nuclear plant near Baghdad, and the Iraqi military power is capable of dealing a heavy blow to the Israelis as it did to the Iranians. But we believe that the Israelis are resorting to threats against Iraq in a bid to escape the situation on the domestic front which is indeed in disarray as a result of Israel's continued atrocities against the Palestinians and its policies vis-a-vis the Arab World and the international community at large, the paper added. It said that the Israelis want to divert world attention from the situation in the occupied territories and are finding in the accusation of Iraq possessing chemical means to achieve their evil objectives.

Who wanted to pull the trigger in 1962?

THE WORLD was even closer to the brink of nuclear war during the Cuban missile crisis of October 1962 than has previously been thought. According to fresh details of the crisis that emerged in Moscow at an unprecedented meeting of some of the participants, nuclear warheads were already on hand in Cuba for the Soviet missiles that were targeted on Washington, New York and other major American cities.

While Washington had photographic proof that there were nuclear-capable Soviet missiles in Cuba, the Americans were never sure whether nuclear warheads were already on hand in Cuba for the Soviet missiles that were targeted on Washington, New York and other major American cities.

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Sergei Khrushchev, an engineer in the Soviet missile programme at the time of the missile crisis, pointed out that "even in the event of an American invasion or air strike, Soviet officers in Cuba had no orders to use the missiles." The missiles were always under full Soviet control, he said, and Cuban officials said they were not even permitted on to the bases.

"This place was 11,000 kilometres from the USSR, and to help in a conventional way was impossible," he said, adding that his father thought that "only an extraordinary measure, such as placing nuclear weapons in Cuba, could defend the island." He said the idea of sending the missiles was first broached in May 1962, and the decision was made in July.

On October 27, when he learned that an American U-2 reconnaissance plane had been shot down over Cuba, Nikita Khrushchev was very upset," his son recalled. "He was certain that nuclear war wouldn't start as long as he and the president controlled

the situation. But this meant they might lose control."

The Moscow seminar marks the first time that top American, Soviet, and Cuban officials involved in the 1962 crisis have met to discuss it. The picture that emerges from their discussions is one of a vastly more complex confrontation than the version previously known, and one in which even the U.S. participants now say the Kennedy administration played a much more equivocal role than was realised at the time.

On the U.S. side, the participants included the former defence secretary, Robert McNamara, the former national security adviser, McGeorge Bundy, a

Kennedy speech-writer, Theodore Sorensen, and his press secretary, Pierre Salinger. Several U.S. scholars, specialists on the missile crisis, organised the meeting, but three delegates confirmed that they had indeed heard a knowledgeable Soviet participant give the account during a session break. They said that the report clearly took the American side by surprise. Luncheon participants said it was unclear from the account whether Castro asked that the missiles be launched pre-emptively or at the moment of a U.S. invasion.

Other participants quoted Alexander Alekseev, the Soviet ambassador to Cuba at the time, as saying that Castro, who had previously been calm throughout the crisis, became particularly agitated around October 26.

Fearing a U.S. airstrike, he reportedly spent that night in a bomb shelter where he and the Soviet envoy drafted a cable to Khrushchev warning of intelligence information that a U.S. attack would come within days or possibly hours.

A senior Cuban official, Jose Arbesu, said in an interview that he was unaware of any appeal by Castro to Khrushchev to fire the missiles. But he too acknowledged that the Cuban leader had sent a message on or about October 26 warning of a probable U.S. air strike or invasion "in the next 24 to 72 hours."

the subject, reportedly said that two days before the crisis peaked, Castro sent a message to Khrushchev, urging that the missiles be fired. According to this account, Castro's cable convinced Khrushchev that the confrontation had gone too far, and he decided to agree to U.S. demands that the missiles be withdrawn.

The existence of such a cabled plea from Castro could not be corroborated by Soviet and Cuban participants attending the meeting, but three delegates confirmed that they had indeed heard a knowledgeable Soviet participant give the account during a session break. They said that the report clearly took the American side by surprise. Luncheon participants said it was unclear from the account whether Castro asked that the missiles be launched pre-emptively or at the moment of a U.S. invasion.

Delegates here confirm that during the formal sessions both Cuban and Soviet officials emphasised their conviction that, by October 1962, a U.S. invasion of Cuba was imminent. American officials continue to insist that the United States had no such intention, although Robert McNamara conceded that he had told the seminar, "I could understand why the Cuban and Soviet leaders at that time believed the U.S. was

missiles there, U.S. officials and academics have tended to emphasise other motives.

Before the Moscow meeting, American participants in the 1962 crisis generally considered the Cubans to have been almost extraneous to its development. They tended to see the crisis strictly as a Soviet-American showdown over an issue of strategic advantage. The Moscow conference appears to have significantly altered that perception. As Scott Armstrong put it during the closing session of the conference: "Cuba has put back into the Cuban missile crisis in a very definite way here."

Several Americans said that they had previously underestimated the extent to which the Cubans and the Russians believed that a U.S. invasion of the island was a real possibility. "Much of the trouble arose from a failure of communication" between Washington and Moscow, said McGeorge Bundy. "You failed to understand in the Soviet Union that we were not going to invade the island of Cuba. That was partly our mistake, too, since we failed to understand your fears."

"There is plenty of blame to be shared by all three countries represented here today," concurred Theodore Sorensen.

Jorge Risquet Valdes proposed that a sequel to this conference be held in Havana. "We feel this would be just, and make a further contribution to our understanding."

• Compiled from reports by Dan Fisher of the Los Angeles Times, Scott Shane of the Baltimore Sun, and Michael Dobbs of the Washington Post and reprinted from the Guardian.

Palestinians in Honduras: success breeds resentment

By David Adams

JAMIL, aged 83, rocked back and forward in her arm chair singing sad verses in Arabic about a faraway homeland where she hopes to be buried one day. "It broke my heart to leave," she said, recalling the day 26 years ago when she left her home in the Palestinian village of Beit Jala, a mile from Bethlehem, to start a new life in the Americas. The Palestinian trail from Bethlehem and its surrounding villages to Central and South America — as well as North America — is a well-trodden path and one on which 10 of Jamile's 11 children preceded her. Last month her sister, Ralida, came from Beit Jala to escape the repression that has claimed the lives of over 350 Palestinians — among them a number of her relatives — in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since December 1987.

The story of Palestinian emigration to Honduras, why they came, and the development of their new communities, is almost totally unchronicled. It is also a parable of the challenges facing any immigrant community seeking assimilation in a foreign land.

Following a century of hardship, the Palestinians are today scattered throughout the world. In their own land they are refugees and even the Arab World has failed to truly open its doors to them. By comparison, from San Francisco to Santiago, Palestinian immigration has been an astonishing success story, thousands settling in new lands where they have been integrated quickly and prosperously.

Their story bears the added irony of a people who fled the political and economic misery of the Middle East, and saw in Central America a new land of opportunity and peaceful sanctuary. But in recent years Central America has witnessed its own exodus as thousands have fled war and poverty. It is also ironic that the Palestinian exodus was spurred on by the conviction that the Americas offered the opportunities of a virgin land as yet unexploited. It was at this very time that the earliest Zionists were promoting the idea of Jewish emigration to Palestine, basing their claim not just on the Bible but also on the belief that Palestine offered a land for a people without a land.

Estimates vary over the size of Honduras' Arab population from 25-100,000, out of a total population of four million. Of these the vast majority came from handful of Christian villages near Bethlehem. Emigration increased during the Great War, when the Ottomans pressed young Christian men into military service and threw them into the front lines. The young men were smuggled out of Palestine in boats bound for France. On arrival in Marseilles, so the story goes, they boarded boats headed for "America," not realising this often meant South or Central America.

Reasons for racial tensions

As new immigrants they adapted quickly to the language and began to take over the merchant class. "Today they have enormous wealth and influence by Honduran standards," said one diplomat. "In pure commercial-industrial terms, they dominate the country." One has only to walk down Third Avenue in San Pedro Sula, the country's busiest commercial street, to grasp their economic influence. Every other shop front bears the name of a leading Palestinian family such as Larach, Silikoff, Handal, Fajous or Kawas. At one end of the street is the largest textile factory in Honduras, owned by the Cananu family, from Bethlehem.

But their economic success has aroused resentment from the indigenous Indian and traditional Latin communities.

The word "turco," meaning Turk, is often used as an insult in Honduras, relating to the first Palestinian immigrants who arrived with Turkish passports from the Ottoman empire.

Other reasons for racial tensions include the self-contained nature of the Arab community.

Until recently they tended to marry only their own kind, many of the older generation still speak Arabic amongst themselves and speak Spanish with strong Arabic accents and clumsy grammar.

At home they still eat Arabic food and drink Arabic coffee and tea. "In modern day folklores they are the Jews of Honduras. Ask any Honduran and they will tell you all Arabs have long noses and rip you off," said one diplomat.

The Palestinian community is divided about how to handle its identity. "It's time we stood up and said proudly what we are doing for this country," said Elias Larach, a hardware store owner in the northern city of San Pedro Sula.

"We had the confidence in the country to build up businesses and invest money. We are immensely grateful for that opportunity. But it's time our contribution was recognised," he added, noting that Palestinian businessmen are major contributors to social programmes and charities in the country.

"We have worked hard to make this a better country. We have our traditions and love for our motherland. But, we are above all Honduras," said Selim Canabati, who left Bethlehem aged two in 1951 and now runs a successful marble business and is the treasurer of the Honduran national football team selection committee.

In the past Palestinians have stayed out of the traditional Honduran power-elites, the armed forces, the political parties and the banks. Today the first signs of change are looming with the governing Liberal party headed by

The Palestinian identity

Divisions also exist in the Palestinian community over a sense of identity with the Palestinian political cause. The year-old uprising in the West Bank and Gaza has heightened awareness among some Hondurans of their Palestinian roots.

The Palestinian influence in the Honduran media is strong with a number of the leading independent newspapers, radio stations and TV channels owned by Arab businessmen. Newspapers cover news from the occupied territories extensively and sometimes carry advertisements supporting the PLO and the Palestinian uprising.

"We are all Hondurans first but the Palestinian cause is a just cause and something I can identify with. I don't agree with Arafat but I admire what he's trying to do," said one young Honduran woman whose father emigrated from Palestine.

"It's the cause of my father and my grandfather and it's the cause of my children and my grandchildren," said Jose, who carries a Palestinian flag on his keyring as a keepsake. His brother-in-law is a teacher in Dajahah refugee camp, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, which has been the scene of many clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers.

Jamile's grand-daughter, Marlyn, was born in Honduras and is one of few of the younger generation who speak Arabic. "We are of Arab origin but feel 100 per cent Honduran," she said. Before she could utter another word, Jamile broke in. "You don't lose your blood. We are Arabs for always." — Middle East International, London.

Al Ra'i's daily Friday warns against Israeli threats on Iraq, which if carried out would trigger a new Arab-Israeli war. The paper said that the Israelis would launch an aggression on Iraq under the pretext that this Arab country possesses chemical weapons which Israel fears. But the true reason behind any military adventure against any Arab state is the deteriorating internal situation in Israel itself, it adds. Furthermore, the Israelis are facing continued isolation from the world community as a result of their atrocities against the Palestinians; and their leaders are in dispute over the coming international conference on the Middle East, the paper noted. But it said that the Arabs should not take the Israeli threats against Iraq lightly and must be ready to confront the new aggression which Israel hopes will eclipse Iraq's victories in the Gulf war and deal a heavy blow to the Arabs who are now rallying their forces and their ranks in a new force to confront external challenges. The Arabs, the paper concluded, should not allow Israel to escape from its dilemma by launching a new aggression on the Arab land.

A columnist in Al Ra'i's daily comments on Israeli-Egyptian disputes over Taba enclave in Sinai which according to an international panel of arbitrators should return to Egypt. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that following months of stalling and avoiding the implementation of the panel's resolution, on the part of Israel and following unfruitful negotiations between Egyptian and Israeli officials over the issue. President Hosni Mubarak found it inevitable but to come out strongly against the Israeli position and accuse the Jewish state of adopting a repulsive attitude and scoffing at international agreements. Mubarak warned the Israelis against further procrastination which Israel is exercising as a means of blackmail against Cairo which is now taking very clear position in alignment with the other Arab states, the writer says. Political blackmail is not the only kind of pressure Israel is trying to put on Egypt but there is the drug pressure represented in attempts to smuggle drugs and the attempt to bring into Egypt Zionist elements to stir trouble in Egypt, the writer adds. He says trouble and disturbances among Egyptian lawyers were instigated by an Israeli agent and that in a number of instances Jews were arrested trying to cause security problems in Cairo. The writer says that it is clear that Israel is trying by all possible means to avoid giving up Taba and causing trouble for the Egyptian authorities because they are demanding that Arab land be returned according to international law.

Al Dastour daily also tackles Israel's threats of launching an aggression on Iraq as it claims that country possesses chemical and biological weapons. The paper said that the Israelis realise that Iraq today is far stronger than it had been at the time when Israeli jets raided the nuclear plant near Baghdad, and the Iraqi military power is capable of dealing a heavy blow to the Israelis as it did to the Iranians. But we believe that the Israelis are resorting to threats against Iraq in a bid to escape the situation on the domestic front which is indeed in disarray as a result of Israel's continued atrocities against the Palestinians and its policies vis-a-vis the Arab World and the international community at large, the paper added. It said that the Israelis want to divert world attention from the situation in the occupied territories and are finding in the accusation of Iraq possessing chemical means to achieve their evil objectives.

Pinochet privatisation drive comes under attack

By Anthony Boadle

SANTIAGO — Opposition leaders are fiercely criticising a drive by General Augusto Pinochet to sell most of Chile's remaining state firms to private investors in his last year in power.

They say it aims to tie the hands of future civilian governments.

Chile has become Latin America's showcase free-market economy since Pinochet overthrew the Marxist government of Salvador Allende and seized power in a 1973 military coup.

Opponents say the sell-offs will consolidate a competitive economy free of state intervention and, by spreading ownership among many shareholders, prevent any future attempt at nationalisation by a leftist government.

But opposition leaders say a retreating Pinochet is applying a "scorched-earth" strategy after his electoral defeat on October 5 to undermine the economic power of a civilian government taking office in March 1990.

"The government is rapidly stripping the state of its assets so that no important company falls into the next government's hands," said economist Gonzalo Martínez, who is drafting the opposition economic programme for the December elections.

Chile has sold 31 enterprises since the privatisation plan was launched in 1985. The state industrial development agency Corfo has auctioned off electric utilities, Chile's only steel industry and 50.2 per cent of the national telephone company, which was acquired by Bond Corp of Australia.

Corfo now plans to sell 30 more firms including the national airline Lan Chile, part of the oil industry, Santiago's subway system, the water works, two hydro-

</

'German art of the late 1980s'

(INP). — The organisers and adjudicators of the "Deutsche Kunst der späten 80er Jahre" exhibition in Düsseldorf very wisely did not claim to be offering an overview of the entire art scene in the Federal Republic of Germany. They took the wind out the sails of any criticism by stating right from the start that their selection was based on entirely subjective criteria. All the same, an undertaking with the somewhat anaemic title of "BiNationale" — as this double exhibition of works by young German and young American artists was styled — deserves to be representative in character. This show which took place initially in Düsseldorf and is now starting in Boston — followed by a number of other American cities — will provide persons on the other side of the ocean with a glimpse into the artistic situation in the land where the works come from as the touring exhibition of American works from Boston to Düsseldorf did. The result of a comparison of the two exhibitions was a foregone conclusion right from the start: Art in the Western World is developing roughly on parallel lines.

The avant-garde, an international affair from the outset, has, with increasing age, become a more and more universal phenomenon. The pictures resemble each other. And yet one of the most popular cultural-critical parlour games at an exhibition along the lines of the German-American "BiNationale" is to ask about the national characteristics of art.

Superfluous

The question is superfluous in the case of works by Imi Knoebel, Harald Klingenhöller and Lüdger Gerdes. Malevich's black square, arranged by Gerdes symmetrically with several other quadrilateral elements and a chop-

per, permits a critical-ironic interpretation of the way the heritage of the founding fathers of abstract art are being treated. Imi Knoebel, who makes no bones about his admiration for Malevich, fits nicely into the tradition-line of the classical modern of supranational pattern with his sweeping minimalist three-part work. Harald Klingenhöller's serial arrangements, in which cubic forms of corrugated board constitute the focal point, can literally be read as paraphrases of Minimal Art. The conceptual art of Georg Herold or Rosemarie Trockel — she is the only woman among the 26 artists as Katharina Fritsch had to cry off at the last moment — are in no way tied to a purely national content.

Gerhard Merz and Jörg Immendorf represent the span between two highly different concepts of form. At the Düsseldorf exhibition, Gerhard showed a gigantic oil painting bearing the title "Ed io anche son architetto." With a T-square against a red background, the title of the work on the upper edge of the picture, and year and artist's name on the lower edge, Merz is declaring his intention to form, to shape, to establish himself as a creator-artist. The picture has manifesto quality, formulates demands which now seem highly antiquated. It evokes an empty, formal severity, suggestive of classical — and fascist — architecture. Merz's works extol pure form, are intent on generating a feeling of elevation, not least through their monumental, space-devouring dimensions. Immendorf, one of the "father generation" of the neo-Expressionist move towards new panel painting at the beginning of the 1980s, has largely turned his back on political subjects which were his distinguishing feature. He now offers a private metaphoric world, painted with a swift brush on

canvas; by way of an exception, the exhibition is displaying pictures which he completed several years ago.

Wild canvas artists

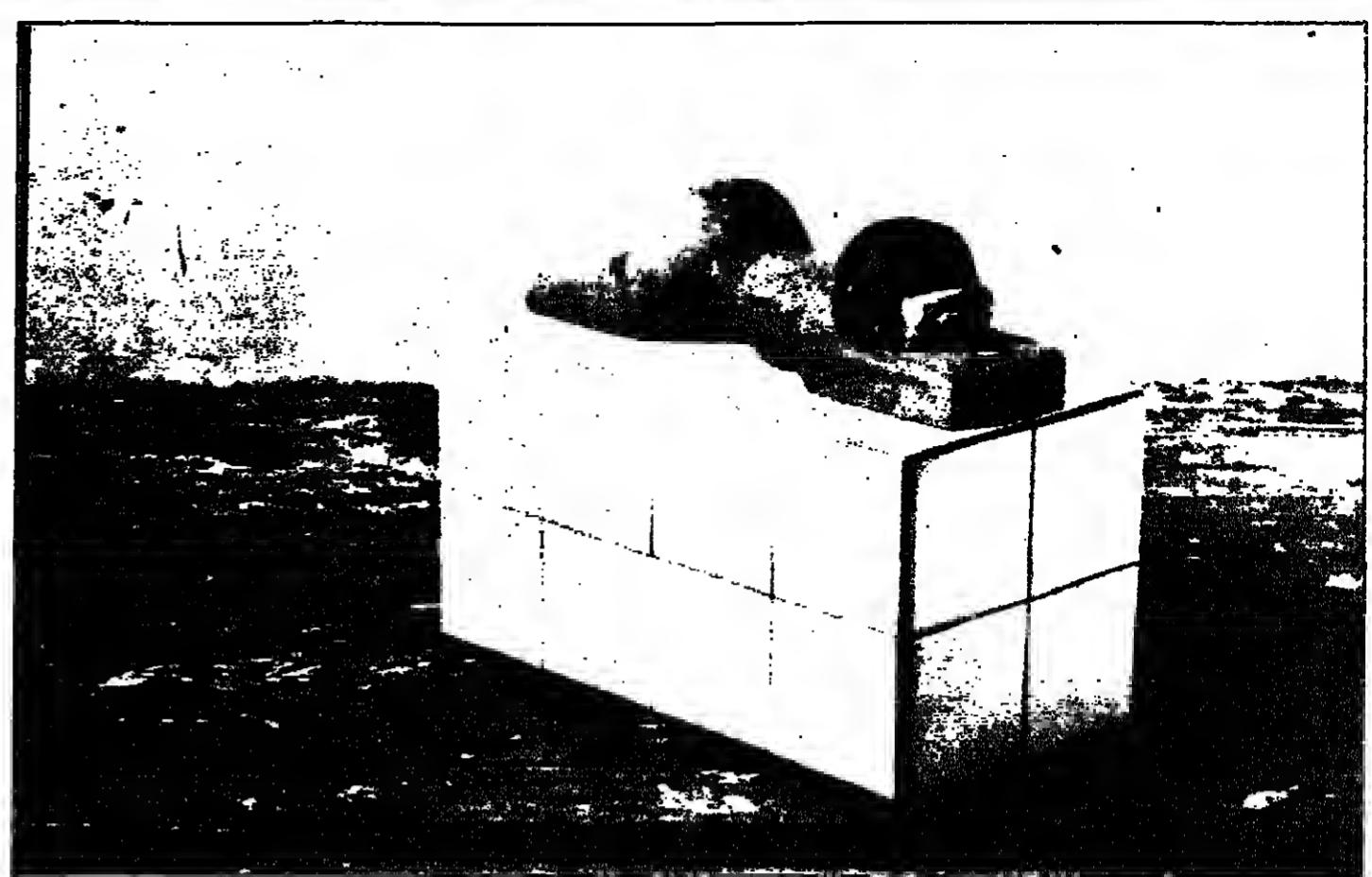
Since the dawn of the 1980s, other countries, particularly Great Britain and the United States, have tried, time and time again, to tie German art down to an expressionist style and to brooding Teutonic romanticism. The success of the "wild" canvas artists, who emerged so vehemently at the beginning of the decade, seems to no inconsiderable extent from the "Wiedererkennungs-Effekt" (recognition effect); the formal and subject concepts of expressionism seemed to have been transposed to the present. Here, foreign critics in particular believed they had found the expression of a typically German frame of mind, gloomy and torn, inclined to sudden outbursts. The exhibition in Düsseldorf demonstrates even more clearly, towards the close of the decade, something it was even possible to make out during the heyday of the "Neue Wilde" (new wild ones): the extent to which the imitated style of "classical" expressionism grew from what was, in the final analysis, a light-hearted, carefree, playful, and partially cynical impulse.

Werner Büttner's series "Damen aus dem KPX-Bad" (Ladies from the KPX Bath), which have been roughly but nevertheless precisely hewn out of wood, stretching their limbs on tiled pedestals, have, of course, something to do with the fascination aroused by African sculpture in European artists at the beginning of this century. But it is also natural for Büttner to remain ironically aloof from art which once struggled with the problems of an authentic and unsophisticated form of artistic expression, unencumbered by civilisation and

Western tradition. Overall — and this was made clear by the Düsseldorf exhibition — the expressive disposition has given way to a stately attitude. Evidence of this is offered just as much as Stephan Balkenhol's wooden figures mounted on pedestals, as it is by Thomas Ruff's photographic work. In fact, photography was conspicuously represented at the Düsseldorf exhibition; Ruff's oversize, enlarged passport photos with the shadowless faces of young persons wear a serious expression, are, without doubt, some of the most expressive pictures in the whole show. Isolation and loneliness are just as much reflected as the exchangeability of the individuals and the technique which makes them all alike.

Aims

The time when the avant-garde's aim could be made unbroken, now seems an irrevocable thing of the past. True, no-one wants to break with the form-language and behavioural norms of the artistic avant-garde, but the specific cognitive manner, laid claim to by the avant-garde, is no longer linked with it. The institutionalised shock is to have no extra-artistic effect whatsoever. The reflection screw has been given one more turn and now seems to have an eternal thread; the avant-garde play material is constantly re-assembled in a different way by newly-born artists. Nothing basically new takes place — fingers now gingerly present what was once charged with explosive force. We are witnessing once more a sort of self-assertion struggle by art for a separation of the artistic from the everyday, the artistic from the social, the artistic from the political. Art is presenting itself as a system of order with its own rules. In addition to the attitude of denying all claims once made



From Werner Büttner's series "Damen aus dem KPX-Bad" (1988), a contribution to the German-American "BiNationale". (Photo: INP/Walter Klein)

by art, and those laid at its door, the notion has been prevalent for some time now, that the artist is the guardian of humanity's greatest secrets. And yet art

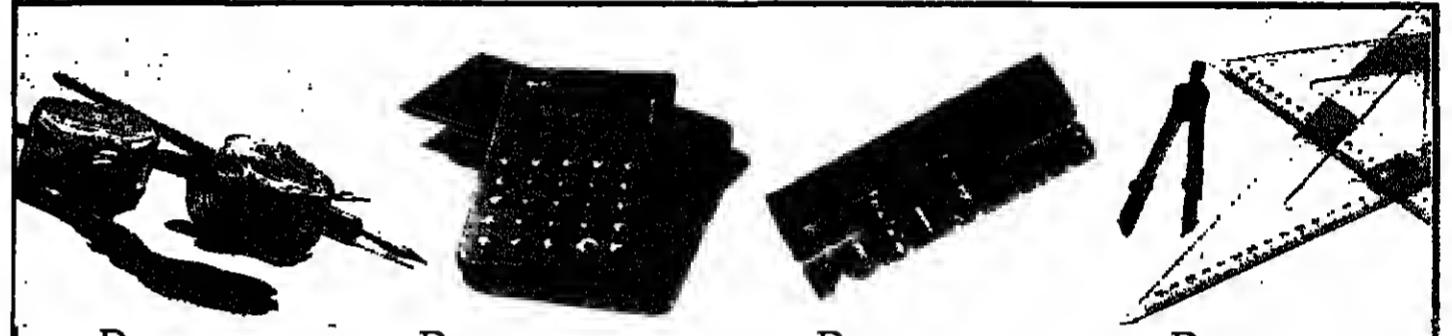
seems to withdraw so often into a sulk, or into a studio in an ivory tower where — after all the turbulent years when everything was romping around the market

place — neighbouring arts, such as drama and literature also seek seclusion. The often highly cryptic artists' statements in the catalogue bear this out: most contem-

porary artists are not intent on

public confrontation and com-

munication — beyond the limits of purely cultural activity. — Michael Hierholzer.



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Tapping Tunisia's geothermal waters

By Mark Newham



Belgian agricultural advisor Herman Verlotti inspects nearly ripe tomatoes

before being applied to the soil, since it was too hot for immediate use. Water above a certain temperature burns roots and sheds large amounts of salts into the soil.

Unlike greenhouse schemes elsewhere in North Africa, which expel excess heat from aquifers into the atmosphere in cooling tanks prior to applying it for irrigation, the hot water in the Tunisian experiment is piped through plastic tubing around the greenhouses under its own pressure from the wells, and is used to heat the greenhouses at night and on chilly winter days. The water, once it has cooled during its initial circulation around the greenhouse, is safe for irrigation.

Although the experiment is only two years old, initial results are so encouraging that the project's director, Herman Verlotti, believes Tunisia now has a formidable weapon for use in the battle with its North African neighbours trying to corner the same markets.

Mr. Verlotti, a Belgian agricultural advisor attached to Tunisia's Ministry of Agriculture, is concentrating on growing tomatoes, melons, peppers, cucumbers and aubergines. He says that in all cases the added heating has increased productivity substantially. In the case of tomatoes, for example, the water-heated greenhouses now produce up to eight kilogrammes of fruit per square metre in one growing cycle — twice the amount from plants in non-heated greenhouses. Improvements in productivity are similar for the other crops.

While some skeptics predict a payback in decades, Mr. Verlotti is confident that the 6-8 Tunisian dinars (\$7-9) required for heating

is a small price to pay for double or triple the cost.

In the past, water for drip irrigation drawn from deep wells had to be passed through a cooler

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'Foreign investments boost U.S.'

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Foreign investment in the United States helps the economy, creates jobs and increases U.S. productive capacity, a majority of corporate leaders said in a survey.

But one in five of those responding said the current acceleration in foreign investment threatens U.S. social and cultural foundations.

Despite this risk, a large majority of the executives oppose broad protectionist legislation and do not think such legislation will be enacted.

The nationwide survey, taken last fall and released by the accounting and management consulting firm Touche Ross and Co., elicited responses from 519 executives, 30 per cent of whom are chief executives.

Touche Ross cited government statistics that said foreign investment in the United States has surpassed \$1.5 trillion.

That figure includes \$1.3 trillion in portfolio investments such as government securities, bank deposits and corporate stock, and \$262 billion in direct investment in manufacturing plants, banks and real estate.

Foreign direct investment alone has more than tripled since 1980, the firm said.

The executives were asked to describe the effect of foreign investment on the U.S. economy and were given three options.

The survey said 55 per cent said

it helps the U.S. economy, 31 per cent said it creates little cause for alarm and 14 per cent said it severely threatens the U.S. economy.

Twenty-six per cent of those responding from the aerospace-defence industry and 21 per cent from the retailing business, both higher than average levels, described foreign investment as a severe threat to the economy.

Touche Ross called that a "curious dichotomy" but said it was consistently reflected in results in each region of the country.

Business leaders tend to support foreign investment more than the general public does, according to a recent survey by the Japan Society, a U.S.-Japanese organization that surveyed attitudes toward Japanese investment of people in the states of California, Tennessee and Michigan.

Among some other key findings in the Touche Ross survey of corporate leaders' attitudes are:

— Eighty-two per cent of the respondents do not want broad protectionist legislation and 82 per cent do not think such legislation will become law.

— Political stability was cited

most frequently as the main reason for the accelerating rate of foreign investment, while favourable exchange rates were cited second.

— Eighty-six per cent of those responding agree that foreign direct investment has created jobs for U.S. citizens and one-third said it had prevented high

rates of unemployment during the past five years.

— More than two-thirds said foreign direct investment has increased the nation's productive capacity during the past five years. More than 80 per cent said foreign ownership has either no effect on or improves relations with the labour force.

— Respondents ranked the auto industry as both the industry most helped and the industry most hurt by foreign investment.

Greenspan sees no recession soon, calls for deep deficit cut

On the official level, Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan said his tough stance against inflation had improved the outlook for the economy but warned of problems ahead unless the federal budget deficit was cut sharply.

Greenspan, testifying to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, ruled out a recession because of the rise in short-term interest rates over the past 10 months.

"There is nothing embodied in the current balances within the economy which in any way in my judgment, at least, predisposes us to a recession," he said.

Indeed, by suppressing some of

the forces that could destabilize the economy, such as inventory accumulation and inflation, the Fed had given the expansion



Alan Greenspan

now in its seventh year, a shot in the arm.

The rise in interest rates was "probably more likely to extend out the recovery than to bring it to an early halt."

Greenspan, as he did earlier before another congressional panel, said he had raised interest rates because inflation was already too high and could accelerate further if the economy continued to grow at a rapid rate.

"The risk of greater inflation could be appreciable if real gross national product continued to increase at recent rates over the next several years," the Fed chairman said.

EIB reports record '88 lending

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The European Investment Bank (EIB) the EC's long-term financing agency, said Friday it lent a record \$11.3 billion in 1988, up 30 per cent in 1987.

In its annual report, the bank said the rise reflected "the buoyant level of investment" in the 12 European Community (EC) nations in advance of Dec. 31, 1992 when the EC plans to become a single economic unit without internal borders hampering trade.

The EIB's 1988 lending totalled 10.2 billion European Currency Units (ECUs), up from 7.8 billion ECUs in 1987, the Luxembourg-based bank said.

EIB President Ernst-Guenther Broeder said at a press conference here he expects EIB lending this year to rise a further 20 per cent.

The bulk of its 1988 loans — 9.5 billion ECUs (\$777.2 million)

were granted to EC nations. The rest went to the more than five dozen developing nations that have special trade links with the EC.

All 12 EC nations, except Luxembourg, received EIB loans in 1988 for regional development and infrastructure programmes, particularly in transport and telecommunications, and to modernize industries.

Italy was the biggest recipient of EIB loans in 1988. It received 3.3 billion ECUs (\$3.7 billion), or 36 per cent of all lending in the EC.

"Expansion was marked in Spain and Portugal and also in France, Denmark and above all in Germany and The Netherlands," the report said.

"There was a modest rise in lending in Italy, while in the other countries activity more or less remained at present levels," it added.

Outside the EC, the EIB said its lending surged 80 per cent to 700 million ECUs (\$777 million) from 1987.

Last year, the EIB lent 302 million ECUs (\$335 million) to former European colonies in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

Also, the EIB said, 398 million ECUs (\$442 million) was allocated to countries in the Mediterranean basin, including Yugoslavia, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt and Malta.

Book cautions USSR creditors

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union is trying to finance its reforms with loans from the West while postponing tough decisions needed at home to curb its budget deficit, says the author of a new book on the Soviet economy.

Author Judy Shelton has joined a chorus of Western skeptics, including many in the U.S. Congress, who worry that Western banks and governments are extending credits to the Kremlin without reviewing the strategic implications.

Shelton's new book, The Coming Soviet Crash: Gorbachev's Desperate Pursuit of Credit in Western Financial Markets, includes a detailed analysis of published Soviet budget data.

She concluded that Kremlin accountants have been fudging the country's economic figures for years, steadily reporting budget surpluses when in fact there were growing deficits. The Soviets finally admitted to a budget deficit last October.

The foremost spokesman in Congress on the issue, Senator Bill Bradley, has cautioned that giving the Kremlin easy credits could undercut U.S. interests and harm rather than help the reforms of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Shelton wrote that the Soviets, in an effort to attract capital, are publishing many previously secret economic statistics. But she and others question the data.

The continued cloudiness of Soviet financial figures does not augur well for the West as the Soviets seek to join such Western financial institutions as the International Monetary Fund, World

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, Feb. 2, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	493.0	495.0	Japanese yen (for 100)
Pound Sterling	263.4	266.7	Dutch guilder
Deutschmark	264.0	265.3	Swedish crown
Swiss franc	310.2	311.8	Italian lira (for 100)
French franc	77.5	77.9	Belgian franc (for 10)
			126.0 126.6

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Jan. 28-Feb. 1	Jan. 21-25
Daily average	JD 2,888.228	JD 2,032.186
Total volume	JD 14,441,141	JD 10,160,931
Total shares	10,089,560	7,864,374
No. of contracts	6,972	6,044
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 10,840,540 (75.1%)	JD 7,473,738 (73.6%)
Financial	JD 2,156,196 (14.9%)	JD 2,086,199 (20.5%)
Service	134.4 (7.2%)	127.8 (4.9%)
Insurance	65 (2.8%)	69 (1.0%)
Share price index	134.4	127.8
No. of companies	61	51
Price movement (rise) (decline) (stable)	2 2 2	8 10

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	U.S. dollar
	1.7457/67	1.1910/20	Canadian dollar
	1.8790/20	2.1213/23	Deutschmarks
	1.5955/62	1.5935/40	Dutch guilders
	39.35/40	6.39/57/75	Swiss francs
	1371/1372	1371/20/30	Belgian francs
	6.3670/3720	6.7800/50	French francs
	7.2990/3010	389.40/389.80	Italian lire
			Japanese yen
			Swedish crowns
			Norwegian crowns
			Danish crowns
			U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Domestic selling virtually wiped out early gains, with some brokers blaming nervousness before this weekend's G-7 meeting. The All Ordinaries index was up 0.8 at 1,515.96.

TOKYO — Prices ended the week on a new closing high after heavy trading on the back of buying of construction stocks. The yen's trend against the dollar also helped the Nikkei index rise 187.48 to 31,685.78.

HONG KONG — The market surged to its third post-crash high of the week as local buying overcame institutional selling. The Hang Seng index gained 46.42 to 3,105.96.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed firm after bargain-hunters caused widespread gains in hectic trading ahead of the lunar new year. The Straits Times industrial index rose 15.09 to 1,143.43.

BOMBAY — Share prices recovered on heavy speculative buying fuelled by rumours some Indian companies may conclude lucrative deals with a visiting French business mission. In textiles, Reliance Industries Ltd. rose 7.5 rupees to 138.5.

FRANKFURT — Takeover rumours scurried round the Frankfurt bourse, pushing selected stocks sharply higher and lifting the whole market. The real-time 30-share DAX index ended up 6.80 points or 0.5 per cent at 1,326.36.

ZURICH — Swiss share prices closed generally steady in fairly calm trading. The all-share Swiss performance index was hardly moved at 959.2 points compared with 957.5 at the previous close.

PARIS — French share prices extended gains by midday, led by strong buying on the Havas communications and advertising group. The 50-share price indicator was up 0.69 per cent.

LONDON — Equities stood close to their day's highs in late trade with an acute shortage of stock exaggerating the gains made on the back of early, fresh demand. At 1540 GMT, the FTSE 100 was up 30.8 points at 2,074.2.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks were higher in late morning trade although blue chips were off highs. The Dow was up seven at 2340 after rising to 2344.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Evert, Sabatini toppled in Pan-Pacific

TOKYO (R) — Chris Evert and Gabriela Sabatini, the second and third seeds respectively, were toppled in the quarter-finals of the Pan-Pacific Women's Open Indoor Tennis Tournament Friday. Evert was ousted 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 by fellow-American and seventh seed Lori McNeil while Argeotina Sabatini lost 6-2, 6-2 to eighth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez. By contrast, top seed Martina Navratilova thrashed sixth-seeded West German Claudia Khode-Kilsch 6-2, 6-2.

Fenech to defend title against Villasana

SYDNEY (AP) — World Boxing Council (WBC) featherweight boxing champion Jeff Fenech of Australia will defend his title against Mexican Marcos Villasana at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne April 1, promoted Bill Mordey confirmed Friday. Fenech, who has an 18-0 record, was in dispute with Mordey and the fight was in doubt. Villasana has failed in three previous attempts to win a world title but is ranked the No. 4 contender for Fenech's title by the WBC. Fenech, former holder of the IBF bantamweight and WBC super-bantamweight titles, had been at the centre of dispute between Mordey and his management team, the International Management Group (IMG). Mordey now will continue to act as Fenech's promoter while IMG will handle all of the champion's business affairs, Mordey said after a meeting Friday.

Fendick advances in New Zealand

AUCKLAND (AP) — Top-seeded Party Fendick of the United States trounced Swede Maria Lindstrom 6-2, 6-0 Friday to advance to the semifinals of the \$75,000 Nutri-Metics International Women's Tennis Tournament. Fendick faces unseeded teenage compatriot Donna Faber Saturday. Faber, 17, upset eighth-seeded Beverly Bowes, also of the United States, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. In other quarterfinal action, No. 6 Belinda Cordwell of New Zealand and N. 7 Jo Durie of Britain also advanced. Big-hitting, left-hander Cordwell, a semifinalist at last week's Australian Open, defeated third-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain 6-4, 6-2, while Durie downed unseeded Wltdorf Probst of West Germany 6-4, 6-4.

Lendl, Connors, McEnroe in Volvo tourney

CHICAGO (AP) — Top-ranked Ivan Lendl, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe, and two-time defending champion Tim Mayotte, all are entered in the 24-man field that begins competition next week in the Volvo Tennis-Chicago Championship. The Czechoslovakian-born Lendl regained the world's No. 1 ranking by virtue of his recent victory at the Australasia Open, the first leg of tennis' grand slam. Tournament promoters also announced Thursday that Americans Aaron Krickstein, ranked No. 14, and teenage sensation Michael Chang have agreed to play. Six teams, including two-time Australian Open champions Jim Pugh and Rick Leach, are entered in the doubles competition.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you North East South West hold:
♦AQ10762 ♦J983 ♦7 ♦K3
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦AKJ852 ♦7 ♦AQ95 ♦63
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦9 ♦J642 ♦AK763 ♦KQ6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K10762 ♦AJ ♦KQ6 ♦J104
The bidding has proceeded:

Available for a limited time as a special offer is a two-for-one package of DOUBLES booklets. For your copies send \$3 to "GOREN DOUBLES," care this newspaper, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426. Make checks payable to "Newspaperbooks."

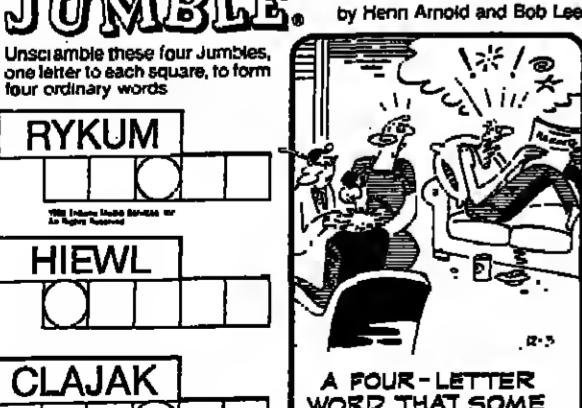
THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"We can cut our grocery bill by 60% if we learn to chew each bite 9,286 times."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
by Henn Arnold and Bob Lee

RYKUM
HIEWL
CLAJAK
DORRAM

A FOUR-LETTER WORD THAT SOME PEOPLE FIND MOST "OBJECTIONABLE."

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: ANWFL PAPER JETSAM HINDER
Answer: What nepotism means in the field of employment—TO PUT ON "HEIRS!"

Jordan, Kuwait tie 1-1 on Davis Cup first day

By Munem Fakhoury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Kuwait tied 1-1 in the first day of Davis Cup tennis play here Friday with a straight-sets victory by Jordan's Hani Al Ali over Kuwait's Khalid Rashid after the Kingdom's Iyad Shehadeh lost to Kuwaiti captain Khalid Ashkenani in an earlier singles match.

Ali's 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 victory contrasted with Shehadeh's 6-2, 7-5, 6-1 loss to Ashkenani, who dominated the play. Shehadeh could not succeed in returning the Kuwaiti captain's powerful serves and at times it appeared that the Jordanian number two was unable to control the match against Ashkenani, who did not give him a chance to play close to the net.

According to the American coach of the Jordanian team, Shehadeh did not perform as was expected and committed several errors. The Kuwaiti player was notably better and drove hard with powerful and quick serves which Shehadeh failed to return. "The court influenced the speed of the ball and thus gave me an advantage, especially with

my strong serves," Ashkenani said. "My opponent was good, but I was better."

It was a different story with the Ali-Rashid match with both players following the Australian style of tennis by sending strong serves and dashing to the net to return the ball to the opponent, thus avoiding long exchanges of the ball. All won the first set 6-4 after a strong show of powerful serves by both players. Having served the second set 6-2, he went ahead into the third with his skill in returning the ball with stronger serves. When Ali was ahead 5-3, Rasid appeared to have gained a firmness and started gaining till the set was tied at 5-5 and then 6-6. The tie-break marathon was on from then. Rashid sent the serve and gained the upper hand to make it 6-2. It was with sheer skill and

drawing from his experience that Ali took control of the set 7-6 in the duel that followed.

Friday's matches, hosted in Jordan for the first time, were the first two of five scheduled matches in best-of-five format. The matches resume Saturday with Ali and Abdulla Khalil pitted against Kuwait's Ashkenani and Aiman Al Asbou in a doubles

play.

Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat attended the matches.

The winner of the first round match in the Asia-Oceania Zone Group 2 will play Pakistan in April. One of the 12 teams in the group will advance to Group 1 play next year.



Little League marks its 50th anniversary

WILLIAMSPORT, Pennsylvania (AP) — Little League baseball will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year with a performance by comedian Bob Hope and a gathering of 1,000 representatives from around the world, the organization's president says.

"It's going to be an exciting time and I think it's something the community will be very proud of," Creighton J. Hale, president and chief executive officer of Little League Baseball Inc., said.

Hope will perform June 13 with Les Brown and his band Reknowned at the stadium where the Little League World Series is held each August, Hale said.

Lundy Lumber and Lycoming Dairy, teams sponsored by two Williamsport businesses, played Little League's first game June 6, 1939.

Since then, more than 24 million youngsters have played Little League, league spokesman Steve Keener said. This year, 2.5 million children in 30 countries will participate in what is billed as the world's largest youth sports organization, Keener said.

Carl Stotz, Little League's founder, still lives in Williamsport but has severed his ties with the national organization. Stotz objects to the emphasis on the world series

QPR launches crusade to be team of 1990s

LONDON (Agencies) — Trevor Francis's crusade to transform Queen's Park Rangers into English soccer's team of the 1990s begins in earnest Saturday with the visit of Millwall.

The former England striker and new Rangers manager spent almost £1 million (\$1.75 million) in 24 hours this week to bring Liverpool's Nigel Spackman and Aston Villa's Andy Gray to the west Londoners' Loftus Road home.

The two signings are Francis's opening moves in his bid to turn Rangers, currently fifth from bottom of the First Division, into one of England's top teams.

"I shall not be happy until I get a team that can challenge for the title," Francis said after securing the signature of Gray for £245,000 (\$745,000) Thursday.

"I hope that will be by the beginning of next season. I've bought two quality players and if there are others that become available I shall endeavour to bring them in."

Gray will launch his midfield partnership with Spackman, who cost £150,000 (\$375,000) Wednesday, against Millwall with his new manager singing his praises.

"I've always liked Andy," said Francis. "He epitomises everything that's good about the modern day footballer — a good athlete who likes to go forward and has an eye for goal."

Rangers' new midfield partnership faces a stern test against a high-flying Millwall side anxious for victory after being dumped out of the F.A. Cup by Liverpool last weekend and beaten 3-2 at

home by Norwich in the league the previous week.

League leaders Arsenal, who entertain second from bottom West Ham, will be eager to avenge their F.A. Cup humiliation by their London neighbours last month.

West Ham's 1-0 win in a third round replay at Highbury has left Arsenal to concentrate on securing their first championship since 1971.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Victory could leave Arsenal six points clear at the top Saturday night if second-placed Norwich falter away to unpredictable Charlton.

Third-placed Coventry visits Middlesbrough while champions Liverpool, nine points adrift of Arsenal in fourth place, travels to bottom club Newcastle.

Lee Martin, who missed Manchester United's fourth round F.A. Cup win over Oxford last Saturday because of influenza, is back in the squad for Sunday's televised game at home to Tottenham.

France

French soccer resumes after its seve-week winter break Saturday with Auxerre looking to steal the First Division lead, if only briefly, from Paris Saint-Germain.

Auxerre, two points down, will go in front if they beat titleholders Monaco, who will be without English international midfielder Glenn Hoddle and defender

Dutch star Ruud Gullit Thursday in AC Milan's run-up to Sunday's league clash at Ascoli, though he thinks he will probably play.

Gullit has been played in only a dozen of Milan's matches this season and has not trained for two days because of a swollen right knee.

Club officials said the problem was a recurrence of the injury that first halted Gullit last November and that the training ban was precautionary.

"I could have done without this stop but I think it is just precautionary," Gullit told reporters. "From what I can tell, I should make it on Sunday."

Gullit has been only a shadow of the player who was last season's European Footballer of the Year.

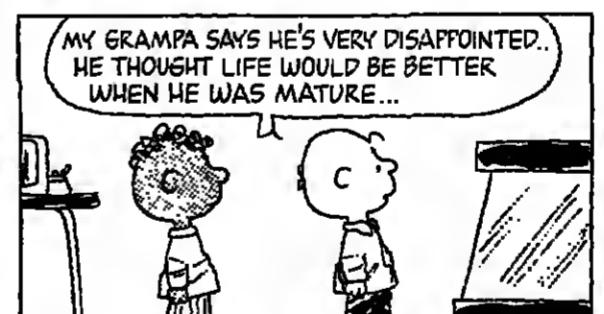
Even without him, Milan should in theory have little trouble with bottom-placed Ascoli but they are nine points adrift of league leaders Internazionale Milan with no realistic hope of retaining the title.

JORDAN TENNIS FEDERATION

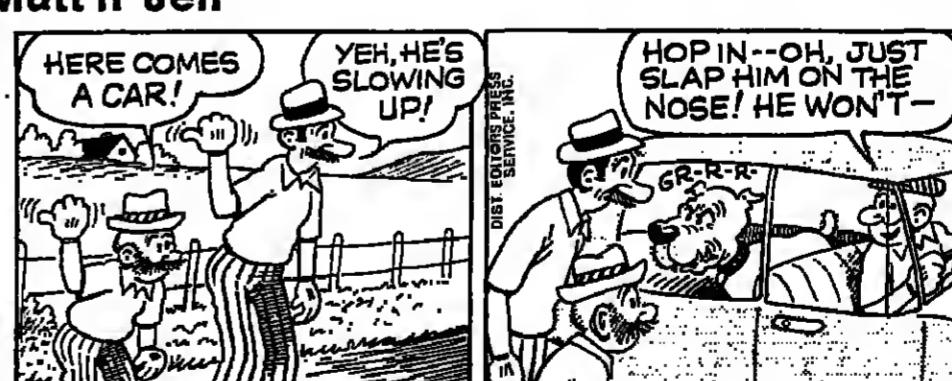
The Jordan Tennis Federation announces the launching of a Little League tennis for boys and girls between the ages of 7-16. Registration will be on Friday Feb. 10, 1989 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Al Hussein Tennis Courts located at Al Hussein Sports City, opposite Martyr's Monument, North Gate, no. 4.

Registration fee J D 15. Course duration from March 4 to May 4, 1989.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

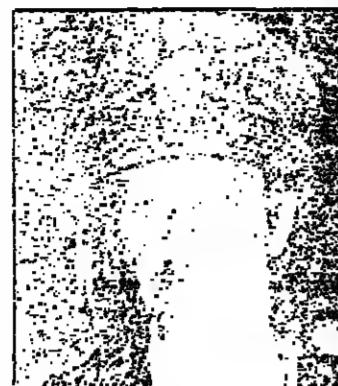


Rt
S

1. Rodriguez takes over 2. Issmer toppled

ASUN
Alfredo
rebello.
General

test — Paraguayan strongman was overthrown in an army years in power, rebel leader Rodriguez said Friday.



Alfredo Stroessner.

firmed independent.

Guns broke hursday night when tanks ... led by the rebels rumbled through the capital, firing shells near the presidential palace and police headquarters.

There was no immediate word on casualties after the clashes tilted off early Friday. Streets in the semi-tropical capital of 900,000 were deserted Friday morning.

"Order has been re-established, and with it all the human values of our entire constitution will be respected," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez's message was first broadcast at 7:40 a.m. (1040 GMT) and repeated several times in Paraguay. For the first time that the only president they had known for 34 years apparently was ousted.

The Roman Catholic Church run-state Radio Asuncion reported Stroessner had been given 12 hours to leave the country and had chosen to go into exile in Chile.

The station also reported Rodriguez would be sworn in as Paraguay's new president at 5 p.m. (2000 GMT). The station did not identify the source of its reports, which could not immediately con-

Stroessner had held absolute power in the landlocked South American country since ousting Federico Chavez in 1954. He was army commander-in-chief, doled out political favours and jobs to his allies and called anyone who opposed him a Marxist subversive. He frequently exiled political opponents.

Diplomats and political sources said Thursday that Rodriguez apparently was ordered to give up his command and retire or accept the post of defence minister. The reasons for the order were not known, and he reportedly refused.

He is associated with a faction of the ruling Colorado Party that supports limited democratisation.

In his radio communiqué, Rodriguez said he and his men "left our barracks in defence of the dignity and the honour of the armed forces, for the full and total unification of the ruling Colorado Party, for the initiation of democratisation in Paraguay (and) for the respect of human rights."

Early Friday, radio reports quoted an infantry division commander, Brigadier-General Ismael Otazu, as saying the uprising was not "insubordination but a correction." Colonel Dionisio Cabello told March 1 radio he was the new air force commander and pledged allegiance to Rodriguez.

Infantry divisions in three interior cities — Villarrica, San Juan Bautista and Concepcion — and an air force unit sided almost immediately with the rebels, the reports indicated.

On Friday, soldiers blocked the street in front of the national palace.



P.W. Botha

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — President P.W. Botha, recovering from a stroke suffered two

Botha quits as party leader

weeks ago, resigned Thursday as leader of the National Party but indicated he would stay on as head of state.

National Education Minister F.W. de Klerk was narrowly elected as the new leader of the governing party, strengthening speculation that he was Botha's apparent replacement.

State radio said Botha, 73, told party officials in a letter that he was resigning his leadership post in order to concentrate on his presidential duties and to distance the presidency from partisan politics.

De Klerk, an attorney before he entered politics, appears to favour Botha's policies of limited and gradual race reform.

As education minister de Klerk, 52, has not been associ-

ated with any major reforms. He supported a controversial crackdown on anti-apartheid dissent at universities and has been active in trying to halt defections from the National Party to the extreme-right Conservative party.

At a news conference in Cape Town, de Klerk declined to discuss his political agenda. He said that if he wanted to propose any policy changes, "I would like first to have a discussion with the state president."

"A very special relationship will now have to develop between myself as leader-in-chief of the National Party on the one hand and the state president as chief executive on the other hand," he said.

De Klerk declined to answer directly when asked if his selec-

tion as party leader made him the logical successor to Botha. He noted that his position had "no direct or formal constitutional implications."

The independent South African Press Association said de Klerk's selection as party leader "is a firm indicator that, should President Botha resign, he would succeed him."

South Africa's president is selected by an electoral college made up of parliament members from the majority parties in the three chambers of the legislature. On Thursday night, she swept down a sparkling marble staircase — like Cinderella at the prince's ball — to join the guests at a gala post opera dinner in her honour. The princess, dazzling in a white evening gown with beaded bolero, paused on the steps for a moment as a four-year-old girl and her brother, seven, the children of the co-chairwoman of the event, presented her with a small bouquet of flowers. As Diana approached her seat at the head table in the atrium — known as the winter garden — of the world financial centre, the approximately 800 guests, who had watched her descend in awed silence, broke into applause. "I was thinking how poised she was," said Richard Fisher, the president of Morgan Stanley Group Incorporated. "I was surprised. You think of her as young and she was so regal." The elegant sit-down dinner in the atrium Thursday night was the princess's last event in a busy day that took her from a family's apartment at a lower east side homeless shelter to FAO Schwarz's treasure trove of toys to the Brooklyn Academy of Music for the American debut of the Welsh National Opera.

Diana charms New Yorkers

NEW YORK (AP) — Princess Diana, who has enchanted New York's social elite and working-class residents, is to visit Harlem hospital and meet children with AIDS Friday, her third and last day of her first official visit here.

On Thursday night, she swept down a sparkling marble staircase — like Cinderella at the prince's ball — to join the guests at a gala post opera dinner in her honour. The princess, dazzling in a white evening gown with beaded bolero, paused on the steps for a moment as a four-year-old girl and her brother, seven, the children of the co-chairwoman of the event, presented her with a small bouquet of flowers. As Diana approached her seat at the head table in the atrium — known as the winter garden — of the world financial centre, the approximately 800 guests, who had watched her descend in awed silence, broke into applause. "I was thinking how poised she was," said Richard Fisher, the president of Morgan Stanley Group Incorporated. "I was surprised. You think of her as young and she was so regal." The elegant sit-down dinner in the atrium Thursday night was the princess's last event in a busy day that took her from a family's apartment at a lower east side homeless shelter to FAO Schwarz's treasure trove of toys to the Brooklyn Academy of Music for the American debut of the Welsh National Opera.

Close changes looks after movie

WASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Glenn Close, star of the movie "Fatal Attraction," says she had to change her appearance because of the recognition she received after her performance as Alex, the enraged jilted lover. "I was surprised the picture became the phenomenon it did," Close said of the film in a recent interview. "It was amazing. I even cut my hair because people were jumping out of my way. My hair stylist says people come in wanting their hair 'done like Glenn Close's'." Her blonde hair was in a distinctive curly style for the film.

"I am kind of an average-looking woman and, until recently, I've been able to travel around pretty much without hindrance. Alex has changed all that, too. I don't think any of us realised how emotional people would be about 'Fatal Attraction' and how much they'd hate my guts and want to see me blown away (killed)."

Schoolgirl turns tables on Jackson

LONDON (AP) — English schoolgirl Elizabeth Ascroft says she turned the tables on pop star Michael Jackson by presenting him with a T-shirt bearing the slogan "I've met Elizabeth Ascroft." Elizabeth, 12, won a contest to attend one of Jackson's concerts in Los Angeles last week and meet him backstage. "The T-shirt was my own idea," she said. "I've got hundreds of things with his name on, so I thought he would like something with mine."

Elizabeth, from Stourbridge in the west Midlands, said she got a thank you and a big hug from Jackson.

Cocker spaniels are U.S. favourites

NEW YORK (AP) — Cocker spaniels are the favourite dog in the United States for the sixth year in a row, while labrador retrievers have edged out poodles for the number two spot, the American Kennel club says. The Annual Canine Census (ACC), based on the number of dogs registered among each breed by ACC, ranks poodles third in 1988, followed by golden retrievers, German shepherds and chow chows — the latter three unchanged from 1987. Rottweilers moved from 12th to seventh, while beagles fell one position to eighth. Dachshunds were unchanged at ninth, while miniature schnauzers slipped two rungs to 10th place.

Non-stop balloon flight planned

NEW YORK (R) — A British adventurer and a U.S. filmmaker unveiled plans Wednesday to make the first non-stop balloon flight around the world, a 40,000 kilometre voyage set to begin in California at the end of March. "It's the ultimate challenge," said 44-year-old British balloonist Julian Nott, who made the announcement at New York's Explorers Club with 34-year-old Engene "Buddy" Squires, an award-winning documentary cinematographer from Cleve-

Racism swells, but Pretoria apathetic

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — In the mining town of Carletonville, officials this week voted to erect a fence to keep blacks off the civic centre's lawn.

In Johannesburg, a mob of whites threatened to kill an Indian man who hoped to be their neighbour.

Near Cape Town, a blind, five-year-old boy was expelled last week from an all-white nursery school. Wayne Shirley was "an lively and intelligent boy," the principal in Kraalfontein said, and he was legally classified as white, but he could not stay because his mother had mixed racial ancestry.

Practices like these pervade

South African society. What sets the country apart is not the existence of racism, but the fact that it is permitted, sometimes even mandated, by many of the people in power.

When right-wing whites

segregated parks in the city of Boksburg last year and blocked the Indian man from moving into their neighbourhood last weekend, they were scolded by the government and the press. But they had the law on their side.

Employers face no penalties if they hire according to race, but colourblind landlords face heavy fines. Government schools must practice segregation, and private schools are

entitled to do so. Municipal governments are empowered to bar blacks from parks, buses or beaches.

"The racists and bigots will exploit laws as long as they remain on the statute books," said Brian Currie, director of Lawyers for Human Rights.

President P.W. Botha's govern-

ment has spoken out against racism with increasing frequency in recent years. In November, it banned a small white-supremacist group, and it has outlawed the incitement of racial hostility.

"If apartheid means ... rac-

ism discrimination and encroachment on human dignity, then I reject it not of hand,"

Botha said in 1986.

But rarely is the government's rhetoric accompanied by tough action. The recent banning of the white liberation movement has not been followed by steps against the larger, more powerful Afrikaner Resistance Movement, despite its white-supremacist ideology, Nazi-style symbols and paramilitary training programmes.

Nor did police disperse the mob which gathered outside a house in Johannesburg's Mayfair west district Sunday, draped a noose over a wall, and shouted threats at the Indian man who planned to move his family into the white neighbour-

Gandhi warns Pakistan against rocket, nuclear weapons tests

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Friday he had received reports

Pakistan had tested a medium-range rocket and obtained materials used to boost the power of nuclear weapons.

He told a public meeting in Bombay India would take steps to protect itself if the reports were true.

"In these circumstances, we cannot sit and watch the situation. We will take necessary steps and not allow the security of our country to be endangered," said Gandhi.

The Indian leader, whose meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto last De-

cember appeared to herald a new warmth in relations between the South Asian neighbours, quoted the reports as saying Pakistan had tested a rocket with a range of 640 kilometres.

He said Pakistan had obtained supplies of tritium from West Germany which could be used to produce a five or six-fold increase in the power of nuclear weapons.

Gandhi gave no further details but his comments came less than a month after Washington accused a West German firm of exporting beryllium to India in 1984 without the required permission of U.S. authorities.

Beryllium can also enhance the power of nuclear bombs but has

peaceful uses ranging from metalurgy to plastics.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974, but said it was for peaceful uses. It also accuses Pakistan of developing nuclear weapons, a charge Islamabad consistently denies.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since 1947 but relations appeared to improve after Bhutto came to power.

Western diplomats said Gandhi's accusations appeared an attempt to counter the U.S. charge as well as declare to the world that India was failing to improve relations with Pakistan under Bhutto despite its best intentions.

Secret talks reported on N. Ireland government

LONDON (AP) — Leaders on both sides of the conflict in Northern Ireland have held secret talks on the future government of the British-ruled province. British media reported.

Northern Ireland has been ruled directly from London since the Northern Ireland assembly was dissolved amid growing strife in 1972, three years after an outbreak of religious and political violence.

Gordon Mawhinney, deputy leader of the province's middle-of-the-road Alliance Party, which is supported by Roman Catholics and Protestants, confirmed he was one of those who had taken part in the talks reported by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

But three other politicians — James Molyneaux, leader of the Protestant official Unionist Party; the Reverend Ian Paisley, leader of the Protestant Democratic Unionist Party; and Catholics could share power at all levels of government, in-

cluding control of the police," the BBC reported.

A spokesman for the Alliance Party said there was a genuine willingness by all parties to find a solution," the report said.

The BBC first reported the talks Thursday and then repeated the reports Friday.

"The discussions began four months ago in West Germany and were supported by the British and Irish governments," the BBC reported in the lead item on its world service radio news bulletins early Friday.

"Taking part have been officials of the two main Protestant parties, the ... social and democratic Labour Party and the Northern Ireland Alliance Party. ... they agreed that Protestants and Catholics could share power at all levels of government, in-

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Tower vote delayed

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate Armed Services Committee Thursday postponed a vote on John Tower's nomination as defence secretary after new allegations about the former senator's behaviour surfaced.

Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, interrupted a committee hearing on nuclear weapons to announce that the panel would not vote on Tower today as expected. "We are looking at additional bits of information," Senator John Warner, the ranking Republican on the committee, told the other members. "We will be meeting with the FBI later today," Warner told the committee. Nunn and Warner declined to state publicly what the new allegations concerned or who was making them.

Tower, a former Texas senator, has denied at his nomination hearings that he is a problem drinker.

Reagan, Gorbachev nominated

OSLO (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and former U.S. President Ronald Reagan have been nominated a second time for the Nobel Peace Prize, sources at the Nobel Institute said Friday.

The sources told Reuters the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet, Czechoslovakian human rights activist and former Foreign Minister Jiri Hajek and Joao Havelange, Brazilian head of the International Football Federation, have also been nominated for the 1989 award. Last year, Nobel watchers said an award to Reagan and Gorbachev, nominated after signing the first superpower treaty to cut nuclear arsenals, could be seen as an endorsement of Republican presidential candidate George Bush.

Burma plane crash kills 26

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — A domestic airliner taking off from Rangoon airport Friday crashed after hitting a tree, killing 26 people and injuring three others on board, the state radio said. Four other people also were injured when the Burma Airways Fokker Friendship 27 crashed near housing for families of air force personnel, Radio Rangoon said. The radio said engine failure caused the crash, Burma's fourth since mid-1987, but said authorities were investigating. The turboprop failed to gain enough altitude and hit a 3-metre tree shortly after take-off for Kengtung, 611 kilometres northeast of Rangoon, the radio reported.

Chernobyl threat lingers

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet authorities have ordered the evacuation of 20 more villages in the Republic of Byelorussia because of continuing high levels of fallout from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident. Soviet television reported Thursday that persistently high levels of cesium 137 were recorded in 17 districts of Byelorussia — up to 250 kilometres north of the site of the accident in the neighbouring Republic of the Ukraine. It described the aftermath of the accident as an "unhealed wound" and said, without elaborating, that residents had not been fully informed on the consequences of the April, 1986, accident. The explosion and fire at the Chernobyl power plant was the world's worst nuclear accident, killing 31 people and forcing the evacuation of at least 100,000 people.

Thursday's television report said contamination from the accident had affected 415 settlements of varying size with a total population of 103,000. Dachshunds were unchanged at ninth, while miniature schnauzers slipped two rungs to 10th place.

NEW YORK (R) — A British adventurer and a U.S. filmmaker unveiled plans Wednesday to make the first non-stop balloon flight around the world, a 40,000 kilometre voyage set to begin in California at the end of March.

"It's the ultimate challenge," said 44-year-old British balloonist Julian Nott, who made the announcement at New York's Explorers Club with 34-year-old Engene "Buddy" Squires, an award-winning documentary cinematographer from Cleve-

Custody probe